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Washington, D.C. 20515

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November 26, 1980

ACTION
is assigned to
PA/C

Mr. J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Atwood:

I have attached a letter from Dr. Merold Westphal, a Professor of Philosophy at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, expressing serious concerns with the conditions now present in South Korea. As you will note, Dr. Westphal is most concerned with the very tenuous state of Kim Dae Jung.

Your comments on actions taken by the Department of State on this matter would be most appreciated. With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Guy Vander Jagt
Member of Congress

GVJ:jr
Encls.

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY 8/18/82 DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

HOPE COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Election Day, 1980

Representative Guy Vander Jagt
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Vander Jagt:

I am writing about three separate matters:

First, I want to urge you to help bring HR 3765 before the House promptly when you resume next week. As the enclosed item from the N.Y. Times indicates, the grain reserve program which is a part of that bill, is a matter of great urgency. I hope you will do all you can to insure its speedy passage.

Second, I am asking that you work for higher levels of funding for emergency relief for Africa in HR 7854. In view of the worsening situation there, the decreases from last year's levels seem to me unconscionable - I mean decreases in the bill as it presently stands.

Finally, I plead with you to speak out publicly and loudly on behalf of Kim Dae Jung and human rights in South Korea. The recent rejection of his appeal makes it look all the more certain that he will be executed. Please convey to the Korean Embassy and to our State Department your refusal to accept this blatant political repression. Our massive assistance to South Korea has been in the name of the Free World. They make this term a hollow mockery, for they are as evil a regime as the one we are supposedly helping to protect their people from. But they are friendly to us. Such friendship should be rejected. It makes it clear to the whole world that by the phrase Free World we mean nothing at all about freedom, but only our willingness to support those friendly to us, regardless of how repressive they are.

In this last matter it seems clear to me that words are not enough. I urge you to work for Congressional action to freeze all military aid immediately, and to work for the speedy withdrawal of all our troops unless they change their ways dramatically. Such a policy cannot be rejected on the grounds of interference in their internal affairs. We are doing that now by making possible the survival of the current regime. Why do we spend so much money to oppose totalitarianism in the north and so much to support it in the south?

Respectfully yours,

Merold Westphal